



Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2 line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Accordingly, the present invention provides a valve plate assembly for a compressor, which valve plate assembly comprises ~~[[comprising]]~~ a valve plate, a reed valve, a cylinder head, and a suction side ~~[[chamber positioned between the valve plate and the cylinder head]]~~, the reed valve being such that it comprises a reed, a port which is opened and closed by the reed, and damper means for mechanically damping motion of the reed; the port being positioned in the valve plate; the reed being positioned on a side of the valve plate which closes a cylinder of a piston and cylinder arrangement whereby the reed flexes into the cylinder when the reed opens the port; and the damper means comprising a tube which is connected to the valve plate, which extends vertically into the suction side ~~[[chamber]]~~, which is in communication with the port on a side of the port remote from the reed so as to enable the passage of refrigerant fluid through the compressor, and which is of such a size that, in use of the valve plate assembly, the tube contains a column of refrigerant fluid which is sufficient to provide substantial mechanical damping of the motion of the reed.

Please replace the paragraph proposed for page 3 lines 17 – 25 in the Amendment filed 12/20/2004 with the following paragraph:

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Referring to the drawing there is shown part of a compressor 1 comprising a piston 3 which reciprocates in a cylinder 4 formed in a cylinder block 5. The compressor 1 also comprises a cylinder head 2 and a valve plate 7. The valve plate 7 is attached to the cylinder block 5 by means of mounting bolts (not shown) and a gasket 8. The valve plate 7 is divided by a baffle 10 into an inlet/suction side 12 and a discharge side 14. ~~As can be seen from the drawing, the suction chamber 12 and the discharge chamber 14 are positioned between the cylinder head 2 and the valve plate 7.~~

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